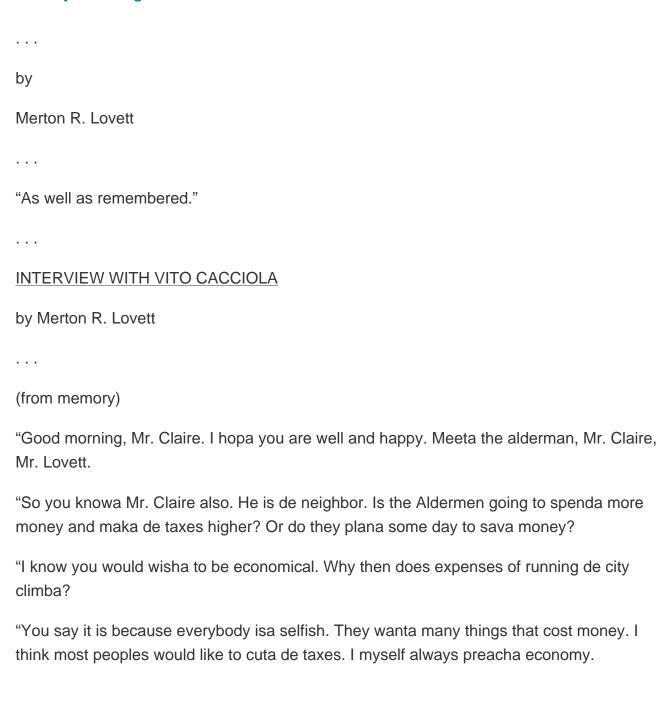
[Interview with Vito Cacciola #44]

ORIGINAL MSS. OR FIELD NOTES (Check one) PUB. Living Lore in New England TITLE Italian Cobbler, Beverly - #44 WRITER Merton R. Lovett DATE 4/21/39 WDS. PP. 4 **CHECKER DATE** SOURCE GIVEN (?) Interview COMMENTS [4/21/39?] Conn 1938-9 Paper No. 44 Interview with

Vito Cacciola



"Did I signa de petition, to build de new playground for Ward three? Of course I signa. It will giva great benefits to de children, who must now play in de streets.

"Why does you laugh?

"My, my. You is right. It would costa de city much money, but it is most necessary.

"So everybody want to spenda money for something. I do not believa de city is justified in buying land for new parking place.

"Whata de matter? Does you see aanything with joke, Mr. Lovett?

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"What you saya, Mr. Claire? I does not wisha more parking place because I do not owna de auto? By gracious, there is too many automobiles. They keepa people in poverty and weara out de streets.

"Repeata that, Mr. Claire, Repeata.

"So, peoples wanta somebody else to maka de economize. When de Aldermen try to sava money some peoples get their goes stepp-ed upon. By jingo, you hava gota something there. Whata you think, Mr. Lovett?

"Gooda bye, Mr. Claire, coma again.

"Did you know, Mr. Lovett, that Mr. Claire was de son-by-de-law of Mr. Kransburg? They maka money. They sella much furniture.

"Yes, de Jews is smarta. Also they helpa each other. De Christians, they cuta your throat for business. De cobblers, they eata each other lika canibals. To keepa my customers, I musta watcha like eagle.

"Did you know, Mr. Lovett, that some of de cobblers playa de tricks most evil? They do not respecta de truth.

"I will giva to you example. De cobbler steala my customers with lies.

"You know, I usa de leather called 'Rock Oak' to maka soles? It is de best. It weara longest. It costa most. See, de leather hava de name stamp-ed on it, lika this.

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"That cobbler, DiMala, he meeta my customers at de club. He saya to them, 'Does your feet hurta? If you do not watcha out, de 'Rock Oak' soles, what Vito uses, will causa corns and maka you lame.'

"Yes, Mr. Lovett, that scampa saya that and more. He tella my customers that my soles is so hard that they is dangerous to feet. He saya, 'Vito uses de soles hard like rocks.' He aska them, 'Is it good to wear soles lika rocks?'

"Believe you me, those lies foola some people.

"Oh, my, de soles what he uses are not so hard. They are soft like piece of tripe. They weara out quick. They costa little."

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"That man, what just leaves, worka on W.P.A. also.

"No, I should not feel disgrac-ed if, because of misfortune, I must worka for W.P.A.

"I tella you what I think. De President of de United States, he is lika a father to all de peoples. He is your father. He is my father. We are his children. It is righta and good for de father to helpa his children. God is de father of all de world. Mr. Roosevelt is de father of

the United States. We pray to God and He helpa us. When we are distress-ed and starved, why should not de President helpa us also?"

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"No, I do not belongs to de Italian Community Club. No longer am I de member of any lodge.

"I tella you. Once I belonga, but from my desociation I gain-ed nothing. The members hava low ideals. They playa cards. They geta drunk. They debase themselves. There is nothing in de club which has appeal to de hearts of good men. There is nothing which can inspira de intelligent man.

"Also, de peoples at de club show for me hostility. They do not understanda de man who thinka for himself. Because I disagree sometimes with politicians, they calla me fool. Because I usa reason about my religion, they nam-ed me heathen."

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